

null  
Diana T Fritz 02/05/2007 05:21:52 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 03494

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MJSISON  
DRAFTED: PAO:TRWHATLEY  
CLEARED: DCM:RALBRIGHT

VZCZCADI641  
RR RUEHC RUEHZM  
DE RUEHAD #3494 2790940  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 050940Z OCT 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6198  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 003494

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/29/2014  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR CALLS ON JUSTICE/ISLAMIC AFFAIRS  
MINISTER

REF: ABU DHABI 03252

Classified by Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4 (b)  
and 1.4 (d).

1. (C) Summary: UAE Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Mohammed Bin Nakhira Al-Dhareri emphasized to Ambassador September 29 that the Ministry pursues transparency in government. He explained the role of the Ministry in overseeing mosques and religious curriculum in schools, emphasizing the positive impact on national security. He expressed his desire to work closely with the USG on all issues in his portfolio. End Summary.

2. (U) On September 29, Ambassador paid her initial call on UAE Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Mohammed Bin Nakhira Al-Dhaheri. U/S for International Cooperation and Planning Abdul Rahim Al Awadi and APAO also participated. Al Dhaheri provided an overview of UAEG initiatives to promote moderate Islam both in mosques and in primary education. He said the UAEG was aware that it had a serious problem with school curricula and was working towards correcting it. Al-Dhaheri maintained that the public at large, including the majority of ex-pat Muslim workers, agreed with the government's approach to tackling radical Islam. He said that his ministry recognized the public concerns regarding the government's oversight role in both Sunni and Shi'a mosques and education. As they have seen the results reflected in the UAE's positive security environment, the public has by and large accepted the focus on moderate Islam, he said.

3. (C) Al Dhaheri emphasized that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) had initiated a reform process some years ago, although many of the more sensitive issues will take time to be resolved. Other countries in the region looked to the UAE as a model on which to base their own reform, he noted. The Minister explained that one of the main goals of the Ministry was to promote a better, more tolerant, understanding of Islam. "We practice the tradition of our fathers and grandfathers, the Islam of peace and love. We reject what is happening now in the name of Islam." He detailed how the Ministry exercises supervision over all mosques

in the country. All imams are appointed and licensed by the government; Friday sermons are drafted by a Ministry committee and distributed to the imams, who read from the same script. Multi-lingual imams may translate into other languages for the expatriate populations of Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc., but in all other respects the Friday sermon is identical in every Sunni mosque. (A similar process is followed for the Friday sermons drafted for the minority Shita population).

14. (U) The Minister also expressed his desire to work closely with the USG on all matters related to his second responsibility, the Justice portfolio. He said the UAE was "anxious to benefit from the wide expertise of the U.S. in many areas, including the training of judges and development of forensic evidence labs." He added that the UAE Judicial Institute had instituted programs to train new judges and attorneys and help them understand new laws. The UAE constantly seeks advice and suggestions from other countries, including the U.S., on how to improve the system of governance, the Minister noted.

15. (U) Ambassador then turned to the robust cooperation between the Ministry of Justice and the USG. She pointed to the upcoming Export Control Legal Technical Session (Oct 9-11), and inquired about the status of two key pieces of draft legislation covering trafficking in persons and the labor law. She complimented the UAEG on its recent passage of anti-terrorism legislation. The Ambassador also affirmed her commitment to pursuing the UAEG request of for a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. On the subject of judicial reform, she described the new regional MEPI office at the embassy and detailed key initiatives, including the Alternate Dispute Resolution program and the Commercial Law Development Program.

-----  
Bio Details: Al Dhaheri  
-----

16. (U) Mohammed Bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, born December 1955, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi Emirate, UAE. Bachelor of Law, Emirates University, 1982. Deputy Director of the Military Judiciary of the UAE Armed Forces, 1982-1992. UAE Attorney General, 1992-1997. 1997 to present, Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf).

SISON